

Appendix D

Proposed Activities in Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Areas Form

Proposed Activities in Greater Sage-Grouse Preliminary Habitat Areas
7/20/2012
Instructions (Use Following Blank for Submittal)

Name of Activity: New Pass Comm Site Power Line Project		Date: 2/6/2014
District(s): Carson City		Field Office(s): Stillwater Field Office
Proponent: NV Energy		
BLM Project Lead/Biologist: Mathew Simons/Chris Kula		
Project Details:		
Location Coordinates (Attach Map File): Township 21 North (T21N), Range 40 East (R40E), Sections 28 and 33.		
<p>The attached maps and Township, Range, and Section above highlight the proposed power line within greater sage-grouse priority habitat. The route of the power line outside of greater sage-grouse priority habitat has not been officially determined; however the potential locations and routes will not impact greater sage-grouse behavior or their habitat, as these locations are located greater than four miles from suitable habitat.</p>		
Preliminary Habitat Designation:		
Preliminary Priority Habitat - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Preliminary General Habitat - <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Activity Description:</p> <p>Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo), doing business as NV Energy, has prepared a Plan of Development (POD) to guide the construction and operation of the New Pass Communications Site Power Line Project, which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Austin, largely within Churchill County, Nevada. The project will involve construction of a new 24.9 kV distribution line from existing distribution lines within the Edwards Creek Valley to the communications site located on New Pass Peak. The project is required to provide reliable electrical service to the communication site, which is currently powered by a combination of solar panels and propane generators. SPPCo is proposing an overhead single pole design from the existing Austin 201 circuit, located off of Alpine Road, to the top of the mountain adjacent to the “switch backs” and the Santa Rose mine site, then converting to an underground design from that point burying the line within the existing access road from the mine site to the communications tower located near New Pass Peak (approximately 1.2 miles of power line are proposed within the sage-grouse priority habitat). To facilitate the buried power line, six junction enclosure boxes (approximately 3x3x3 ft) will be placed along various portions of the road. The underground section is proposed as a mitigation measure for disturbance within the identified sage-grouse priority habitat.</p>		
<p>Level of Proposed Disturbance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acres Disturbed: Total disturbance would range from <.01 acres to approximately 0.85 acres. <p>The disturbance would be <0.1 acres if the power line will be buried within the existing footprint of the road (which is the current plan). Therefore, the only disturbance would result from the placement of the junction boxes along the road.</p> <p>The disturbance could reach approximately 0.85 acres if the power line will not be able to be buried within the existing road. If the power line will not be able to be buried within the existing road, the power line will be buried within 6 inches of the existing road for the entire length of the line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and Activity Level (Including Vehicle Trips): Project related noise and activity that could impact greater sage-grouse would only occur during the burying of the power line in priority 		

habitat.

Existing Level Of Disturbance:

[Brief overview of whether the proposed activity is in existing disturbance.](#)

- Acres Disturbed: The end destination for the proposed power line is New Pass Peak. New Pass Peak was designated as a preferred communication site in 1998 through the Central Nevada Communication Sites Modified Final Plan Amendment to the Shoshone, Lahontan, and Walker Resource Management Plans. On New Pass Peak, there currently sits two communication towers (one is 80 ft tall and one is 120 ft tall) and associated facilities for Verizon and the U.S. Navy. The total acreage of disturbance is less than one acre.
- Noise and Activity Level: Despite the current facilities at New Pass Peak, greater sage-grouse are still being observed to use the area. In fact, grouse have been observed shading under the existing solar panels associated with the U.S. Navy tower. The use of the area in and around the current facilities appears to be night roosting and brood-rearing. There is no known lek within 10 miles of the proposed power line and New Pass Peak.

Mitigation:

- Past Mitigation Measures for Sage-grouse in project area: N/A
- Applicant Proposed Design Measures/Mitigation Measures: Bury the power line within the existing road (or at most 6 inches from the road)
- BLM Allowed Mitigation Measures: The power line will be installed at a time where greater sage-grouse will be least likely to be impacted.

Coordination with NDOW:

Contact:

[Name and phone number](#)

NDOW concurs that the proposed activity with associated mitigation measures cumulatively maintain or enhance Greater Sage-grouse habitat in PPH and reduces and mitigates adverse effects on Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat in PGH.

Yes - No - Explain what is preventing agreement. This will be elevated to the State Directors for BLM and NDOW to resolve.

Remarks:

[Optional area for additional information that would help the State Director and DSDs evaluate this activity.](#)

District/Field Outcome:

Defer Activity - Proposed activity is in compliance with IM-2012-043 and can proceed -

Managers Signature/Title:

[Signature of DM or FM or a designated representative.](#)

Date:

Comments:

[Optional area for notes, future follow-up or specific provisions for proceeding.](#)

Nevada State Office Outcome:

Defer Activity - Proposed activity is in compliance with IM-2012-043 and can proceed -

Signature/Title:

Date:

Comments:

[Optional area for notes, future follow-up or specific provisions for proceeding.](#)

Proposed Activities in Greater Sage-Grouse Preliminary Habitat Areas
Instructions (Use Following Blank for Submittal)

Name of Activity: New Pass Communications Site Power Line Project NVN 093347		Date: March 15, 2016 (original form submitted 02/06/14)
District(s): Carson City District		Field Office(s): Stillwater Field Office
Proponent: NV Energy		
BLM Project Lead/Biologist: Angelica Rose/Matthew Simons		
Project Details:		
Location Coordinates (Attach Map File): Township 21 North (T21N), Range 40 East (R40E), Sections 28 and 33.		
<p>The attached maps and Township, Range, and Section above highlight the proposed power line within the greater sage-grouse Other Habitat Management Area (OHMA). The route of the power line outside of the greater sage-grouse OHMAs has not been officially determined; however the potential locations and routes will not impact greater sage-grouse behavior or their habitat, as these locations are located greater than four miles from suitable habitat, RDFs have been built into the Proposed Action and NV Energy has committed to burying the powerline in areas where the powerline crosses into the greater sage-grouse OHMAs.</p> <p>Post Lat and Long or UTM's with attached Map to: https://partnerteamspace.blm.doi.net/sites-nv/nvrp/Sage/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx in the "Proposed Projects within GSG Habitat" folder and the appropriate District folder.</p>		
Preliminary Habitat Designation:		
PHMA - <input type="checkbox"/>	GHMA - <input type="checkbox"/>	
OHMA - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Activity Description:		
<p>Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo), doing business as NV Energy, has prepared a Plan of Development (POD) to guide the construction and operation of the New Pass Communications Site Power Line Project, which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Austin, largely within Churchill County, Nevada. The project will involve construction of a new 24.9 kV distribution line from existing distribution lines within the Edwards Creek Valley to the communications site located on New Pass Peak. The project is required to provide reliable electrical service to the communication site, which is currently powered by a combination of solar panels and propane generators. SPPCo is proposing an overhead single pole design from the existing Austin 201 circuit, located off of Alpine Road, to the top of the mountain adjacent to the "switch backs" and the Santa Rose mine site, then converting to an underground design from that point burying the line within the existing access road from the mine site to the communications tower located near New Pass Peak (approximately 1.2 miles of power line are proposed within the sage-grouse OHMA). To facilitate the buried power line, six junction enclosure boxes (approximately 3x3x3 ft) will be placed along various portions of the road. The underground section is proposed as a mitigation measure for disturbance within the identified sage-grouse OHMA.</p>		
Level of Proposed Disturbance:		
Acres Disturbed: Total disturbance would range from <.01 acres to approximately 0.85 acres		
<p>The disturbance would be <0.1 acres if the power line will be buried within the existing footprint of the road (which is the current plan). Therefore, the only disturbance would result from the placement of the junction boxes along the road.</p>		

The disturbance could reach approximately 0.85 acres if the power line will not be able to be buried within the existing road. If the power line will not be able to be buried within the existing road, the power line will be buried within 6 inches of the existing road for the entire length of the line..

- **Noise and Activity Level (Including Vehicle Trips):** Project related noise and activity that could impact greater sage-grouse would only occur during the burying of the power line in OHMA.

Existing Level Of Disturbance:

Brief overview of whether the proposed activity is in existing disturbance.

- **Acres Disturbed:** The end destination for the proposed power line is New Pass Peak. New Pass Peak was designated as a preferred communication site in 1998 through the Central Nevada Communication Sites Modified Final Plan Amendment to the Shoshone, Lahontan, and Walker Resource Management Plans. On New Pass Peak, there currently sits two communication towers (one is 80 ft tall and one is 120 ft tall) and associated facilities for Verizon and the U.S. Navy. The total acreage of disturbance is less than one acre.
- **Noise and Activity Level:** Despite the current facilities at New Pass Peak, greater sage-grouse are still being observed to use the area. In fact, grouse have been observed shading under the existing solar panels associated with the U.S. Navy tower. The use of the area in and around the current facilities appears to be night roosting and brood-rearing. There is no known lek within 10 miles of the proposed power line and New Pass Peak.

Mitigation:

- **Past Mitigation Measures for Sage-grouse in project area:** N/A
- **Applicant Proposed Design Measures/Mitigation Measures:** Bury the power line within the existing road (or at most 6 inches from the road) in OHMA. RDFs from the Approved Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments have been incorporated into the Proposed Action as well.
- **BLM Allowed Mitigation Measures:** The power line will be installed at a time where greater sage-grouse will be least likely to be impacted.

Coordination with NDOW:

Contact:

Mark Freese (775) 688-1145

NDOW concurs that the proposed activity with associated mitigation measures cumulatively maintain or enhance Greater Sage-grouse habitat and reduces and mitigates adverse effects on Greater Sage-grouse and its habitat in areas mapped as OHMA.

Yes - No - Explain what is preventing agreement. This will be elevated to the State Directors for BLM and NDOW to resolve.

Remarks.

Our previous wildlife biologist coordinated extensively with NDOW on this project and we designed it to mitigate impacts to the greater sage-grouse by incorporating burying of the powerline in OHMA even though that is not required for OHMA per the 2015 ROD.

District/Field Outcome:

Defer Activity - Proposed activity is in compliance with IM-2012-043 and can proceed -

Managers Signature/Title: *Carla Jannay, Acting FM* Date: *03-16-16*
Signature of DM or FM or a designated representative.

Comments.

Optional area for notes, future follow-up or specific provisions for proceeding.

Nevada State Office Outcome:

Defer Activity - Proposed activity is in compliance with IM-2012-043 and can proceed -

Signature/Title: *Kimberly D. Dow* Date: *4/1/16*
Branch Chief, Renewable Resources

Comments:

Optional area for notes, future follow-up or specific provisions for proceeding.

LANDS & REALTY: NO COMMENT

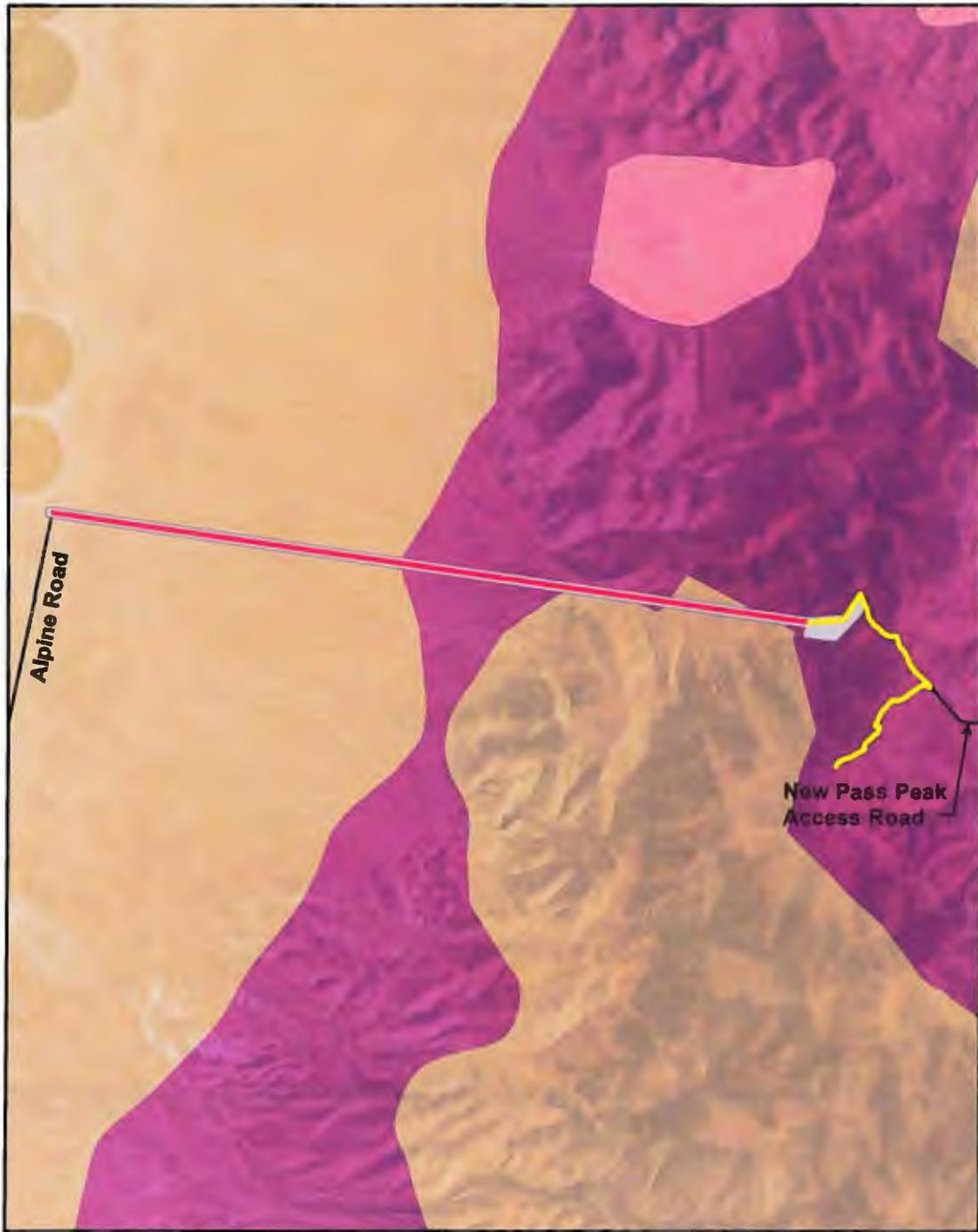
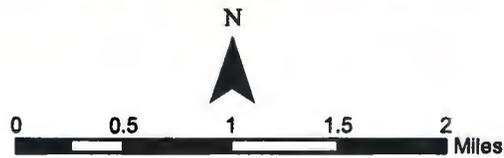


Figure 10: Greater Sage Grouse Habitat

- Proposed Underground Distribution Line
- Proposed Overhead Distribution Line
- Survey Area
- General Habitat Management Areas (GHMAs)
- Other Habitat Management Areas (OHMAs)
- Non-Habitat



Source: 2015 BLM Approved Resource Management Plan Generator Sage-Grouse Habitat

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use.

Map produced by BLH 12/18/2015